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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
THEMES:

HEADLINES
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HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

US Takes Turkish Red Crescent Out of Tal Afar - Aksam
Schroeder Rejects a Coalition with Merkel - Hurriyet
Majority of Turks in Germany Voted for Schroeder - Aksam
Germany in Two Pieces - Turkiye
Ereli: US Policy on Armenian 'Genocide' Claims Unchanged -
Milliyet 9/18
Annan to Launch a New Initiative on Cyprus - Aksam
Kurdish MP Hussein Killed in Iraq - Milliyet
Two PKK Terrorists Killed in Bingol - Milliyet
Last Two Days' Toll in Iraq: 250 Killed - Sabah 9/17

OPINION MAKERS

Gul: Annan Will Take New Steps on Cyprus - Radikal
Karamanlis to Visit Turkey in November - Yeni Safak
Coalition 'Puzzle' Emerges Out of German Ballot Box - Zaman
Blair: BBC is Anti-US - Yeni Safak
Return to New Orleans Begins - Yeni Safak
Tehran to Break Ties with West - Cumhuriyet
Palestine Closes Gaza-Egypt Border Crossing - Cumhuriyet
Hugo Chavez Visits Bronx in New York - New York
Afghanistan Holds 'Historic' Elections - Cumhuriyet
Kabul Writes History, First Polls Held Since 1969 - Radikal
Afghans Shrug Off Taliban Threats, Go to Ballot Box - Zaman
Sharon: Israel Does Not Oppose a Palestinian State - Yeni
Safak 9/17
Iarqi Insurgents Unite against Zarkawi - Yeni Safak 9/17
Attack against Shiite Neighborhood Kills 30 in Baghdad -
Cumhuriyet 9/18

BRIEFING

US Continues Transfer of Military Materiel into Iraq through
Iskenderun: Saturday "Cumhuriyet" writes on its front page
that 'thousands' of military vehicles and tons of ammunition
continued to be shipped to the US forces in Iraq through
Turkey's Mediterranean port of Iskenderun. The US Embassy
in Ankara said in a written statement Friday that the
Iskenderun Port was not being used for transfer of military
explosives to American forces in Iraq. The paper claims
that a Turkish staff member from the US Embassy called the
port authorities in Iskenderun to ask why they were making
such information public. The "Cumhuriyet" story repeated
its claims, basing them on the 'unclassified' data provided
by the Iskenderun Chamber of Maritime Commerce, that 3,404
tons of ammunition and 4,076 military vehicles and
construction equipment were shipped to Iraq through
Iskenderun in the first seven months of the year.
Iskenderun Port authorities said in a statement released
through the Hatay Governor's Office that 66 tons of
ammunition and 118 military vehicles were brought to
Iskenderun in Egyptian and Honduran flagged vessels last
month. Zuheyir Amber, a Motherland Party (ANAP) lawmaker
from the Hatay province said that US logistical support
materiel transfer into Iraq continued through Iskenderun
despite the fact that the Turkish Parliament rejected such
use of Turkish facilities against Iraq, and that he will
submit to the parliament a motion to discuss the issue.

Turkey-US to Work to Cut Financial Support to the PKK:
Saturday "Vatan" reports that Turkey and the United States
decided to adopt some measures in an effort to cut off the
PKK's financial resources and arrest the leaders of the
terrorist organization during a meeting held in Washington
in August. Turkish and American officials came together at
a meeting in Ankara last week to share intelligence and
determine the sources of financial flow to the PKK from
Europe. The two countries will send evidence regarding the
PKK's financial supporters to European capitals, demanding
their arrest. In the same story, "Sabah" quotes US Charge

d'Affaires Nancy McEldowney saying in response to a call by Murat Karayilan, in which the PKK ringleader invited the Americans to talk with them instead of beginning action against his organization in northern Iraq, that the US will not discuss anything with terrorists. During a meeting with the Turkish Foreign Ministry (MFA) Deputy U/S Nabi Sensoy last week, McEldowney pointed to the 'joint efforts' of Turkey and the US in the struggle against the PKK, and said that a delegation of US experts had recently met with Turkish officials with regard to the subject. McEldowney declined to elaborate further, saying that the process required secrecy.

US Delays Appointing a New Ambassador to Turkey: The appointment of the new US Ambassador to Turkey, Ross Wilson, who was expected in Ankara in October at the latest, is delayed until Christmas, claims Monday's "Sabah." The appointment of Wilson to Turkey is seemingly not among the priorities of the Bush Administration, says the paper, adding that the approval of the US Senate is needed for the Wilson assignment. The report speculates that the US may be delaying the appointment due to the successful performance of Charge McEldowney in improving the image of the US in Turkey with her attitude against the PKK.

Grossman on US Expectations from Turkey: Former US State Department U/S Marc Grossman told "Milliyet" on Saturday that the US should work to take the leaders and members of the anti-Turkish extremist group, the PKK, out of northern Iraq and have them face justice either in Iraq or Turkey. The US should take this action now, Grossman stressed, adding that without American or Iraqi action soon, it will be difficult to dissuade Turkey from unilaterally intervening in northern Iraq. Grossman also called on the Turks to be more 'flexible' with regard to the US military presence in Turkey. Grossman added: 'Turkey must accept its responsibilities concerning a solution to the Cyprus problem. It must be careful with religious freedom and display tolerance by reopening the Halki Seminary. It must open the border with Armenia and declare zero tolerance against anti-Semitism.'

German Elections: Turkish dailies say that the German Conservative leader Angela Merkel's anti-Turkey policies did her no good in the general elections as her party came in narrowly ahead of Gerhard Schroeder's Social Democrats. The results will benefit Turkey most since the anti-Turkey conservative front will have to make concessions in Turkey's favor while bargaining over a coalition government, say papers. Schroeder is quoted as saying that he will not allow a coalition government headed by Merkel. The German election outcome brings about the possibility of new elections, say papers.

Lagendijk Advises Kurds to Stay away from Ocalan: Joost Lagendijk, the head of the Turkey-EU joint parliamentary commission, said that 'sympathy' for the PKK had declined in Europe, Saturday Milliyet reports. Lagendijk said that the opening of EU accession talks with Turkey will lead to the isolation of the PKK, advising the Kurdish politicians to distance themselves from Abdullah Ocalan and find a new leader to wage a democratic struggle.

Annan Prepares for New Cyprus Initiative: Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul said in New York on Saturday that UN Secretary General Kofi Annan will take several important steps forward regarding the Cyprus issue. During my meetings with the foreign ministers of 12 EU countries, I have detailed Turkey's sensitivities on the eve of October 3, Gul said to reporters, adding that UNSG Annan will soon launch a fresh initiative on the subject. Papers expect Annan to release a statement next week, criticizing the Greek Cypriot efforts to take the issue away from the UN to the EU.

DEHAP Complains of Provocative Attacks: The head of the pro-Kurdish DEHAP party branch in Van, Abdurrahman Dogan, has been arrested for propagandizing in support of the outlawed PKK and provoking hatred, "Cumhuriyet" reports on Sunday. Four DEHAP officials were arrested in Adana during security operations. DEHAP's Ankara office complained in a statement that the party had become the target of lynching attempts, criticizing attacks by angry mobs against party branches in several provinces across Turkey. The statement criticized Turkish officials for remaining silent in the face of provocations, stressing that such 'provocations' undermined the 'peaceful coexistence' of Turks and Kurds.

Kurdish Politicians Conduct Defense in Kurdish at Court: Turkey's all-news channel NTV reported Monday that the leaders of the 'Rights and Freedoms Party' (HAK-PAR), on trial for speaking in Kurdish during their party congress, made their defense in Kurdish through an interpreter. Party Chairman Abdulmelik Firat told the press after the court hearing that the party officials were tried for speaking in Kurdish during their party congress, but the court allowed them to conduct their defense in Kurdish.

Aydin Gives US Red Cross 1.5 Million USD: Turkish State Minister Mehmet Aydin presented the US Red Cross official Rosemary W. Mackey with an aid check for 1.5 million USD meant for Hurricane Katrina victims in New York on Friday, weekend papers report. Mackey thanked Aydin for the donation, saying that it is a new expression of the relations between the US Red Cross and Turkish Red Crescent (Kizilay).

Turkey-Georgia-Azerbaijan Railroad Project: Turkey will host a meeting on September 19 to discuss the developments regarding the Kars-Javakheti-Tbilisi-Baku Railway Project, weekend papers report. The Turkish and Azerbaijani ministers of transportation and the Georgian infrastructure minister will participate in the meeting to discuss the project, which aims to establish a direct railway between Turkey and Georgia and between Turkey and Azerbaijan via Georgia. The three countries signed a memorandum of understanding in December last year to put the project into force. The project will further develop the Eurasia-Caucasus-Asia transportation corridor, and contribute to efforts to revive the historic Silk Road, say reports.

PKK Terrorists Killed in Eastern Turkey: Security forces killed two PKK terrorists in separate operations in the eastern provinces of Van and Tunceli, papers reported on Sunday. Three terrorists reportedly escaped after the clash and crossed the Iranian border.

Bus Explosion Kills Two in Turkey: An explosion on a bus which was traveling from the southern city of Adana to Antalya killed two people and wounded 10, Turkey's semi-official "Anatolian Agency" (AA) reported on Monday. AA said that the blast came from the hand-baggage shelf inside the bus en route to the tourist centre Antalya. Police launched an investigation into the blast.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq/PKK; German Election

"Expecting Action Against PKK"
Yasemin Congar reported from Washington in the mass appeal "Milliyet" (9/19): "Attending the UN summit, PM Erdogan left New York with expectations to see some concrete action against the PKK presence in Iraq. In a press conference prior to his departure, Erdogan expressed hope to see some deeds along with words from US and Iraqi officials by saying 'our expectations continue since there were some positive developments recently.' Both Iraqi and American officials confirm that they are well aware of threat which the PKK presence in Iraq poses, as well as Turkey's concerns regarding it. A Turkish government official who attended the meetings with both Iraqis and Americans noted that the Turkish side heard about the PKK exactly what it was hoping to hear. And such words should follow with actions, Turkey emphasizes. Regarding the nature of the action, several speculations can be made. For example, tangible measures by Iraqi police force is one possible action. But Talabani said only 'we will do our best' and he did not go any further than that. The US sources, on the other hand, continue to rule out the possibility of a comprehensive military operation against PKK at this point. In fact, Erdogan and his close circles are not expecting a comprehensive operation either. A Turkish official described the expectation by giving an example: 'For instance, helicopter fire can hit a PKK target. This will certainly not solve the issue but can create a huge psychological impact both on Turkish public opinion and on the PKK.' The impression I got from American as well as Iraqi officials indicates that there will be more cooperation on intelligence matters which may result in on-the-spot operations. On that note, there is even a speculation that certain leaders of the PKK may be arrested. In an attempt to cope with anti-Americanism in Turkey and to demonstrate loyalty to its principles regarding combating terrorism, the Bush administration has recently started using clear and strong rhetoric about the PKK. The Americans will use the upcoming Rice-Gul meeting to express American sensitivity on the PKK issue. FM Gul wants to hear clearly what the US would do in Iraq. There are some in Turkey who trust neither Talabani nor Barzani and believe the US is going to keep the PKK in northern Iraq in order to threaten Turkey. Therefore, they do not believe that Turkey can achieve anything by creating cooperation [with the US and Iraq] against PKK. Washington must have understood that strong rhetoric will no longer be sufficient to change this assumption."

"Elections in Germany"
Yilmaz Oztuna commented in the conservative "Turkiye" (9/19): "The prime ministers and foreign ministers of the UK and Germany, as well as those of Italy and Spain, all stressed the advantages of Turkey's EU membership and also all the problems that will occur in the event of Turkey's rejection. The issue was also a part of the election debates in Germany. They said many things except one important one: none of them dared to mention that Turkey's

alternative to the EU is the US. The US is a NATO ally for all these European countries. Moreover, the US has billions of dollars of investment in these countries. It would be contrary to political courtesy to mention that the US is a rival of the EU. At last, former US Ambassador to Ankara Marc Grossman has stated that Turkey's EU alternative is the US. President Bush stressed that approval of the Armenian genocide draft resolution by the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee doesn't reflect the US administration's policies. President Bush reiterated his friendship for Turkey with this statement."

MCELDOWNEY